

of u~. But we can let our neighbor die with no thought what-soever. That's his concern not mine. And here again our neighbor is not the fellow that lives next store. It's anyone and everyone we come into contact with. This is our Christian duty of love. This is the way the Master went and we must walk it too.

Helen Steiner Rice wrote a poem entitled, "The Magic of Love."

Love is like magic and it always will be,  
 For love still remains life's sweet mystery!  
 Love works in ways that are wondrous and strange  
 And there's nothing in life that love cannot change!  
 Love can transform the most commonplace  
 Into beauty and splendor and sweetness and grace!  
 Love is unselfish, understanding and kind,  
 For it sees with its heart and not with its mind!  
 Love is the answer that everyone seeks—  
 Love is the language that every heart speaks—  
 Love can't be bought, it is priceless and free,  
 Love like pure magic, is a sweet mystery!

THIS IS THE LOVE CHRIST TAUGHT, & THIS IS THE LOVE HE SHOWED WHEN  
 HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR US. LET US EACH TRY TO REFLECT UPON THIS  
 LOVE IN OUR LIVES DURING THIS LENTEN SEASON & LET US EACH TRY  
 TO CHANGE OUR LIVES TOWARD THIS END.  
Let us pray.

LET US PRAY

St. John Emlenton 9:30 3/3/68

\*Processional Hymn 207  
\*Call to Worship Pg. 145  
\*Confession of Sin  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
Responsive Reading Sel. 22-574  
Hymn 161  
Scripture Genesis 22:1-19  
\*Gloria Patri  
\*Apostle's Creed  
\*Prayer and Response  
Anthem  
Announcement  
Offering, Prayer  
\*Hymn 229  
Sermon  
Prayer & Lord's Prayer  
\*Hymn 475  
\*Benediction  
\*Threefold Amen  
\*Postlude

CHURCH TONIGHT

EVERY TUES. MORNING 10:00 AM,  
WOMEN OF FM. WILL MEET AT  
ST. JOHN'S FOR PRAYER & MED.

Salem Lamartine 11:00 3/3/68

\*Processional Hymn 159  
\*Call to Worship Pg. 145  
\*Confession of Sin  
\*Assurance of Pardon  
Scripture Genesis 22: 1-19  
\*Gloria Patri  
\*Apostle's Creed  
\*Prayer  
Anthem  
Announcements  
Offering, Response, Prayer  
Hymn 141  
Sermon  
Prayer & Lord's Prayer  
\*Hymn 479  
\*Benediction  
\*Threefold Amen  
\*Postlude

~~NO CONGREGATE MEETING~~

YOUTH FELL. 6:30

Call to Worship: O magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us exalt his name together.

Call to Confession: Come to me all <sup>You</sup> who labor and are  
heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke  
on you and learn of me; for I am gentle and lowly  
in heart, and you will find rest for your souls;  
For my yoke is easy and my burden is light, saith  
the Lord. Let us come to Him confessing our sins.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon; The Lord is merciful and gracious  
For as the heavens are high above the earth, so  
great is His steadfast love toward those who fear  
Him; ~~xxxxxx~~ as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

Amen.

N.B.L.

MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH MEET AT CHURCH AT 7:15  
THURSDAY APRIL 1ST TO GO TO COUNTY HOME.

LINDA ACHEMBACK IS IN ROOM 721  
MEMORIAL BLDG. POLYCLINIC HOSPITAL  
THANKS FOR FLOWERS.

MRS. MAGER IS HOME  
Mrs. Monroe still in POLYCLINIC

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Ralph C. Link, Pastor  
Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.  
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP March 28, 1971

The Organ Prelude

\*The Hymn of Praise 153

\*The Call to Worship

\*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Our Father, we do not want to come to thee to confess our rebellion against thee. In shame we try to hide our wild spirits. Yet we are compelled to prostrate ourselves before thee, for there is nothing within us that can bring us peace. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, that by thy grace the warfare that we know so well may cease and we may worthily honor thy name and render unto thee an acceptable offering of our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

\*The Kyrie

\*The Assurance of Pardon

The Scripture---Genesis 22:1-19

\*The Gloria Patri

Anthem (Trinity)

Pastoral Prayer

Announcements

The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

\*The Doxology

\*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The Hymn of Meditation 156

The Sermon----Lenten Reflections

"The Sacrifice of The Son"

The Sermon Prayer

\*The Hymn of Response

\*The Benediction

\*The Threefold Amen

\*The Postlude

\*Congregation Stands

#### GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The celebration of the Lord's Supper will be observed in both churches on Easter Sunday, April 11th. Your Pastor will officiate. At this time we will also receive into membership anyone desiring to unite with us in Christian fellowship. Please contact the Pastor if you are interested or know of someone who is.

The Lord's Supper will be observed in the homes of our shut-ins either before Easter or shortly thereafter. Please help your Pastor by submitting the names of all of our shut-ins to him, so that no one is overlooked.

#### TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mid-Week Community Lenten services will be held Wed. evening March 31st at 7:30 P.M. at Carson Long Chapel. A movie will be shown.

GEN.

Text; Genesi- 22;8

In the Pericope~ which i~ a fancy word for a calendar of the Church year, our scripture for today is one that i~ suggested to be used for thi~ fir~t Sunday of lent. Many of our churches follow the Pericope~ very closely. I check the ~~the~~ scripture~ for each appropriate~ sunday, but generally I do not feel too free using a ~et pattern all the time. Mostly I have refrained from following the Church year too closely. But in my search for a certain theme to be followed during thi~ sea-on, thi~ scripture gave me the idea that I needed. We are going to try to picture and think through, just what were the things~ that Jesus~ needed to go through thi~ ordeal which He undertook. What were some of the things~ that sustained Him as He traveled to the end of His~ journey. This~ is what we will be trying to discover as we once again start on the journey that lead~ to Jeru-salem and the cross.

Just picture in your mind~ if you will the ~etting of our scripture today. Abraham wa~ spoken to by God and he re-ponded by doing as he was told. He re-ponded to the last detail and wa~ even in the process~ of slaye-ing hi~ son when God intervened. This~ story teache~ us many lesson~ that can be compared with the life of Christ. But first we should look at thi~ story a little clo-er. The background will perhaps~ explain thi~ more fully.

During the time of Abreham the ~acrifice of children wa~ a more or less common thing. In fact they not only practiced human ~acrifice , but they did it at what they believed wa~ divine command. If a man thought thi~ today and hi~ thoughts became known he would be placed in a mental institution. Worse yet if he performed thi~ act he would be convicted of murder and executed or imprisoned for life. This~ story is rather disturbing to anyone reading it and it require~ that we look at all of its~ different aspect~ to di-cover the real truth.

This~ story is perhaps~ placed in the Bible to show that

Abraham's love and devotion to his God, was capable of making him sacrifice his son to prove this love. The use of human sacrifice was a custom among some of the Canaanite tribes. It had been practiced for centuries. In the time of Eli-sa around 800 B. C. during a crisis of battle for the Moabite capital, the king of Moab quote, "Took his eldest son who was to succeed him and offered him as a sacrifice on the city wall." Unquote. This quotation is found in II Kings 3rd chapter the 27th verse. This sacrifice was made to a pagan god, and if men worshipping pagan deities could carry their religion to that extreme how could Abraham show that his religion meant as much to him. The only way would be to do as they did. Therefore the story represents very authentically what must have gone on in Abraham's mind. Here was a great leader of his people. He is living in a crude age. All around him are obedient people showing their faith to their pagan god's. In spite of his torment of his love for his son, he kept hearing an inner voice telling him to sacrifice his son. It could well be that because of his mind dwelling on these thoughts, the thought pressed upon his conscience and he interpreted it as being the voice of God. Whatever the case may be, the climax of the story is the real revelation of God. The voice of God proves to say something quite different from what Abraham thought it was saying. The climax is that God does not want Isaac to be sacrificed. The story ends on a note of happiness instead of tragedy. God showed Abraham that the true test of a person's love isn't determined by his willingness to sacrifice, but by his faith.

Many earlier generations took this text very simply and uncritically. To question any part of the Bible was close to blasphemy. But we are living in an altogether different age. People do ask questions, and quite naturally they want answers. I think this is a healthy sign. It not only shows that people are interested in their religion, but it helps to strengthen their faith. Then too they are not compelled to accept something blindly, in which they neither believe nor understand. But here again we must remember

that we ~should que~tion reverently. Not with the intent to tear the Bible apart but to get at the truth. so if we question this bit of scripture in this light we find , that it wa~ not the will of God that Abraham ~should sacrifice I~aac. God never require~ that we sacrifice in this way. He revealed His real nature the moment he stopped Abraham from killing I~aac. Abraham wa~ blessed because he wa~ willing to obey God's will which he believed required the sacrifice of his son. He wa~ blessed because he willingly would have gone to the limit to show his love. This sort of ~spirit always makes a man capable of greatness. Abraham wa~ completely committed to what he believed. When everything a man has is committed to what he believe~, he can go far. Would that all of us were of thi~ mind. But unfortunately we alway~ hold back a little. We question what  
if, instead of completely giving our~selves over to God's will.

The ~tory of Abraham and the ~tory of Jesus are very similar. There is naturally one great difference, This is that one is about a man, his son and hi~ God. The other is about a God and His <sup>ANOMAN</sup> Son. There are several parallel in these two case~. One is the faith shown by Jesus and Abraham. Each one trusted God to the extreme. Each one had complete faith that God would see them through, that God would work things out whatever way He chose. That no matter the outcome God would be glorified.

We have already stressed the faith of Abraham, but what of the faith of Jesus? How could He accept such a fate as He did? The only possible explanation is the fact that He leaned completely on God. Jesus questioned thi~ fate. After all who wouldn't? But when He had determined that thi~ was the way and there wa~ no other choice, He accepted it. This is a case of faith at its strongest. We cannot begin to fathom what it would take to have faith like thi~ and to give up everything including life itself.

The ~second parallel is ~sacrifice. The ~sacrifice of Abraham was to be human. But so wa~ the ~sacrifice of God. Then the ~sacrifice of Abraham was to be his son, but then so wa~ the ~sacrifice of God. Then we come to a paradox instead of a parallel. The ~sacrifice of Abraham was done for love of

God and the sacrifice of God was done for the love of man. We won't go into the love involved in the act of Jesus' death as we will cover this at another time. But we can see the similarities between the two acts, WHEN WE VIEW THEM TOGETHER. As our thoughts today are directed to these two familiar scenes, we should be thinking just what it is these happenings mean to each of us personally. What is God saying to us today? I think first He is showing us the perfect example of faith and trust in Him in the story of Jesus. If we could each possess this complete, unquestioning love and faith to our Father, can you imagine what His Church would be like? All the problems and difficult situations of the Church would be solved. Really there are no problems in the Church. This may sound surprising but I think it is true. I think all the problems are man made and caused by our narrow minded human way of handling things. The real problems are caused by the people who make up the Church. Many times our faith is so shallow and we don't have the complete trust in God that we should. We are hesitant to turn things over to Him because maybe He won't solve things <sup>CAN</sup> as well as we would. Therefore we hold back and hesitate and all we need do is to trust in Him completely and our problems would be in His hands. This is what I believe ~~that~~ God is trying to say to us in our present day. He is beckoning us with the words of Jesus, "Come to me all you who labor and I will give you rest. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Then I think that God is trying to tell us today as well as He did in Jesus' time that He does not want our sacrifices as much as He wants our love. The prophets in the Old Testament preached against sacrifices. Hosea states that God says quote, "For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings." Unquote. So you see all God wants from us is our love and obedience. We can bring all the offerings we want to God but they amount to nothing if we do not give ourselves to Him. Our offerings are meaningless if our lives are not lived close to God. The sacrifice which Jesus made is the sacrifice that God gave to us. If we accept this sacrifice

Jesus we not only inherit the eternal life promised to us, but we show love to God by accepting His gift, which was so freely given. Our faith should be the thing that is the sustaining force in our lives. If our faith is in it should be then we can sing in our hearts, ~~the glad word of~~, "My faith looks up to Thee, Thou lamb of Calvary, Saviour Divine: Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, O let me from this day be wholly Thine. Let us pray.